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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SEATTLE WA
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...2014 WESTERN WASHINGTON WEATHER YEAR IN REVIEW...

2014 WILL GO DOWN AS A WET AND RECORD WARM YEAR AS WELL AS A TRAGIC YEAR. THERE WERE 50 WEATHER-RELATED FATALITIES CAPPED BY THE 43 INVOLVED WITH THE SR-530 SLIDE ON MARCH 22ND. THERE WERE ALSO THREE AVALANCHE AND WIND-RELATED FATALITIES EACH AS WELL AS A RIP CURRENT FATALITY. 19 PEOPLE WERE INJURED DURING THE YEAR AND WEATHER-RELATED DAMAGE TOTALS THROUGH OCTOBER WERE IN EXCESS OF 64 MILLION DOLLARS.

IT WAS A RECORD WARM YEAR. WITH ABOUT A WEEK LEFT BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR...THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT SEATAC AIRPORT WAS 55.5 DEGREES...EXCEEDING THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 54.4 DEGREES IN 1995. THE AVERAGE HIGH TEMPERATURE WAS 63.1 DEGREES EXCEEDING THE RECORD OF 62.5 DEGREES IN 1992 AND THE AVERAGE LOW TEMPERATURE WAS 47.9 DEGREES EXCEEDING THE RECORD WARM LOW TEMPERATURE AVERAGE OF 46.7 DEGREES SET IN 1995 AND 2013.

THROUGH DECEMBER 22ND...THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY 83 DAYS (23 PERCENT) WITH BELOW NORMAL TEMPERATURES. SINCE JULY 1ST...THE PERCENTAGE IS EVEN LOWER WITH ONLY 27 DAYS BELOW NORMAL (15 PERCENT).

THERE WERE PLENTY OF WARM NIGHTS IN SEATTLE IN 2014. THROUGH DECEMBER 22ND...THERE WERE 176 DAYS WITH A LOW TEMPERATURE OF 50 DEGREES OR MORE. THIS IS A NEW RECORD AND CRUSHES THE OLD RECORD OF 157 DAYS SET IN 1995.

THERE WERE 114 DAYS WITH HIGHS 70 DEGREES OR GREATER. THIS IS SECOND MOST ON RECORD SURPASSED ONLY BY 115 DAYS IN 1992.

EIGHT OUT OF THE TWELVE MONTHS WERE IN THE TOP 10 WARMEST. THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IN JANUARY WAS 44.3 DEGREES (10TH), APRIL 52.0 DEGREES (7TH), MAY 59.1 DEGREES (5TH), JULY 69.2 DEGREES (2ND), AUGUST 69.1 DEGREES (3RD), SEPTEMBER 64.8 DEGREES (2ND), OCTOBER 58.0 DEGREES (1ST) AND AS OF DECEMBER 22ND - 47.5 DEGREES (1ST). ONLY FEBRUARY HAD BELOW NORMAL TEMPERATURES.

IT WAS ALSO QUITE A WET YEAR. SEATAC AIRPORT REPORTED 47.21 INCHES FOR THE YEAR AS OF DECEMBER 22ND...THE EIGHTH WETTEST YEAR ON RECORD.

THE ALL-TIME RECORD IS 55.17 INCHES IN 1950. WITH ABOUT A WEEK TO GO IN THE YEAR...ANOTHER INCH WOULD BE NEEDED TO EXCEED THE 7TH RANKED 48.27 INCHES ESTABLISHED IN 2012.

FOR ONLY THE SECOND TIME ON RECORD...SEATAC AIRPORT PASSED ITS ANNUAL NORMAL TOTAL FOR RAINFALL IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER. THE ANNUAL NORMAL OF 37.49 INCHES WAS SURPASSED ON OCTOBER 30TH THIS YEAR. THE ONLY OTHER YEAR WAS IN 1950 WHEN THE ANNUAL NORMAL WAS SURPASSED ON OCTOBER 23RD.

THERE WERE FIVE MONTHS THAT ENDED UP IN THE TOP 10 WETTEST ON RECORD - FEBRUARY 6.11 INCHES (8TH)...MARCH 9.44 INCHES (1ST)...APRIL 4.18 INCHES (9TH)...MAY 3.15 INCHES (8TH) AND OCTOBER 6.75 INCHES (5TH).

IT WAS THE WETTEST FEBRUARY 1ST THROUGH OCTOBER 31ST ON RECORD... 35.17 INCHES...SHATTERING THE OLD RECORD OF 31.11 INCHES SET IN 1950.

2014 WAS ALSO THE YEAR OF LANDSLIDES. IN ADDITION TO THE SR-530 SLIDE... OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS INCLUDED THE INDEX SLIDE IN JANUARY THAT CUT OFF A NEIGHBORHOOD...AND FROM MID FEBRUARY TO EARLY MARCH... SLIDES IN MAPLE VALLEY...AUBURN...U.S. 101 NEAR HOODSPORT...MUKILTEO... TACOMA...DES MOINES...CONCRETE...SEDRO WOOLLEY AND SNOQUALMIE.

THE YEAR BEGAN WITH THE NEUTRAL PHASE OF THE THREE EL NINO SIBLINGS AND FINISHED WITH A WEAK EL NINO. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THERE WERE BACK TO BACK NEUTRAL WINTER SEASONS SINCE THE WINTERS OF 1992-93 AND 1993-94.

THERE WERE FOUR TORNADOES IN THE STATE THIS YEAR. WASHINGTON AVERAGES BETWEEN ONE AND TWO TORNADOES PER YEAR. THE STRONGEST TORNADO – AN EF1 - STRUCK LONGVIEW ON OCTOBER 23RD WITH NO FATALITIES BUT CLOSE TO ONE MILLION DOLLARS DAMAGE. THE OTHER EVENTS WERE A BRIEF WEAK EVENT IN EATONVILLE ON APRIL 27TH...A BRIEF TOUCHDOWN ON RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN NORTHWEST OF RICHLAND ON AUGUST 13TH...AND THE WATERSPOUT OFF ANDERSON ISLAND IN SOUTH PUGET SOUND ON OCTOBER 11TH.

BELOW IS A LIST OF THE YEARS SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENTS AND THE RECORD TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION ESTABLISHED THUS FAR THIS YEAR.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

TORNADOES AND WATERSPOUTS

APRIL 27 – PIERCE COUNTY - A BRIEF EF0 TORNADO TOUCHED DOWN IN

EATONVILLE.

AUGUST 13 – BENTON COUNTY – A BRIEF EF0 TORNADO TOUCHED DOWN ON RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN NORTHWEST OF RICHLAND.

OCTOBER 11 – PIERCE COUNTY - A WATERSPOUT WAS JUST OFF ANDERSON ISLAND FOR A COUPLE OF MINUTES.

OCTOBER 23 – COWLITZ COUNTY – AN EF1 TORNADO MOVED THROUGH A PART OF LONGVIEW WITH WINDS UP TO 110 MPH FOR ABOUT 10 MINUTES CAUSING CLOSE TO \$1 MILLION DAMAGE TO BUILDINGS ALONG ITS 1.3 MILE PATH. NO INJURIES OR FATALITIES.

LIGHTNING/THUNDERSTORMS

AUGUST 2 – KING COUNTY – LIGHTNING HIT TREES IN THE FREMONT AND GREEN LAKE AREAS OF SEATTLE...KNOCKING POWER OUT TO ABOUT 2000 CUSTOMERS AND SPARKING A GARAGE FIRE.

AUGUST 11 – KING COUNTY – LIGHTNING STRIKES IN THE WOODINVILLE AND REDMOND AREAS RESULTED IN MORE THAN 5000 CUSTOMERS LOSING POWER.

HAIL

NO SEVERE SIZED HAIL – 1 INCH OR GREATER DIAMETER – WAS REPORTED DURING THE YEAR ALTHOUGH THERE WERE A NUMBER OF REPORTS OF SMALL HAIL, ICE PELLETS AND GRAUPEL OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEAR.

HIGH WINDS

JANUARY 10-11 – COAST/NORTH INTERIOR/PUGET SOUND AREA – A SERIES OF THREE WIND EVENTS PRODUCED WINDS UP TO 55 MPH KNOCKING POWER OUT TO ABOUT 90000 CUSTOMERS.

FEBRUARY 15-16 – COAST/NORTH INTERIOR – A STRONG STORM PRODUCED WINDS UP TO 58 MPH.

MAY 31 – ISLAND COUNTY – STRONG WINDS UP TO 35 MPH RESULTED IN A 10-FOOT KAYAK CARRYING TWO MEN FROM THE SOUTHERN U.S. TO CAPSIZE. THE TWO MEN DROWNED FROM HYPOTHERMIA.

OCTOBER 21 – NORTH COAST AND NORTH INTERIOR – STRONG WINDS UP TO 58 MPH HIT THIS REGION AND RESULTED IN ONE INJURY FROM A LARGE TREE BRANCH THROUGH THE ROOF OF A HOME.

OCTOBER 25 – PUGET SOUND AREA – STRONG WINDS UP TO 61 MPH RESULTED IN

ABOUT 150000 CUSTOMERS WITHOUT POWER. THE EVERGREEN POINT FLOATING BRIDGE CLOSED FOR A FEW HOURS THAT EVENING. A SAILOR DIED IN THE SOUTH SOUND AREA WHEN HIS BOAT CAPSIZED. A CYCLIST WAS INJURED BY A FALLEN BRANCH IN DOWNTOWN SEATTLE. DAMAGES EXCEEDED TWO MILLION DOLLARS.

NOVEMBER 6 – NORTH INTERIOR AND PUGET SOUND AREA – STRONG WINDS UP TO 58 MPH PRODUCED POWER OUTAGES TO ABOUT 50000 CUSTOMERS AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS IN DAMAGES. A TREE FELL ONTO A VEHICLE ALONG SR-530 NEAR OSO INJURING THE MOTORIST.

NOVEMBER 14-16 – PORTIONS OF THE INTERIOR – AN STRONG OFFSHORE FLOW EAST WIND EVENT UNDER CLEAR SKIES RESULTED IN STRONG WINDS WITH GUSTS TO 50 MPH FOR A FEW DAYS WITH ONE NIGHT IN THE EAST PUGET SOUND LOWLANDS...GUSTS REACHING 60 MPH. THE EVENT RESULTED IN A NUMBER OF DOWNED TREES AND POWER OUTAGES TO ABOUT 150000 CUSTOMERS – SOME MORE THAN ONCE. DAMAGE TOTALS WERE NOT AVAILABLE YET.

DECEMBER 11 – MUCH OF WESTERN WASHINGTON – STRONG WINDS UP TO 65 MPH DOWNED A NUMBER OF TREES AND RESULTED IN 350000 CUSTOMERS WITHOUT POWER. A CYCLIST WAS INJURED WHEN HE ENCOUNTERED A DOWNED TREE ON A BIKE TRAIL. DAMAGE TOTALS WERE NOT AVAILABLE YET.

WINTER STORMS

FEBRUARY 8 – PARTS OF THE PUGET SOUND AREA AND SOUTHWEST INTERIOR – 3 TO 7 INCHES OF SNOW FELL.

FEBRUARY 22 – FAR NORTH INTERIOR - WEAK FRASER RIVER OUTFLOW COMBINED WITH INCOMING MOISTURE FROM A PACIFIC WEATHER SYSTEM TO PRODUCE 2-4 INCHES OF SNOW IN WESTERN WHATCOM AND SAN JUAN COUNTIES.

NOVEMBER 29 – PARTS OF THE INTERIOR OF WESTERN WASHINGTON – A SURGE OF COLD AIR FROM WESTERN CANADA COMBINED WITH LINGERING MOISTURE FROM A PACIFIC WEATHER SYSTEM AND A PUGET SOUND CONVERGENCE ZONE RESULTED IN TRACE TO 3 INCHES OF SNOW IN THE REGION.

AVALANCHE

JANUARY 18 – A CLIMBER WAS INVOLVED IN A CORNICE FAILURE RESULTING IN A FATALITY NEAR LEWIS PEAK ALONG THE MOUNTAIN LOOP HIGHWAY.

FEBRUARY 11 – IN OSBORNES CHUTE NEAR STEVENS PASS...A SKIER AND SNOWBOARDER TRIGGERED A SLIDE WITH BOTH BEING INJURED.

MARCH 22 – ON GRANITE MOUNTAIN NEAR SNOQUALMIE PASS...A SKIER TRIGGERED AN AVALANCHE AND DIED.

APRIL 27 – SNOQUALMIE MOUNTAIN NEAR THE PASS...A SKIER TRIGGERED A SLIDE AND WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED.

MAY 14 – ON MT SHUSKAN...A SKIER WAS CAUGHT IN A SLIDE AND DIED.

FLOODS/HEAVY RAIN/LANDSLIDES

JANUARY 9 – SNOHOMISH COUNTY – A LANDSLIDE OVER THE ONLY ROAD INTO A NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR INDEX LEFT SCORES OF RESIDENTS STRANDED AND WITHOUT POWER.

JANUARY 11 – MINOR FLOODING OCCURRED ON THE BOGACHIEL...SKOKOMISH AND STILLAGUAMISH RIVERS FOLLOWING A HEAVY RAIN EVENT.

FEBRUARY 17-18 – HEAVY RAINFALL IN SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON CAUSED MINOR FLOODING ON THE LOWER CHEHALIS...DESCHUTES...NEWAUKUM...SKOKOMISH AND SKOOKUMCHUCK RIVERS.

FEBRUARY 19 – HEAVY RAINFALL CAUSED A LANDSLIDE THAT DAMAGED PART OF A ROAD NEAR MAPLE VALLEY.

MARCH 2-8 – A SERIES OF LANDSLIDES DESTROYED A HOME ALONG THE WEST VALLEY HIGHWAY NEAR PACIFIC. A ROAD WAS DAMAGED IN INDEX. OTHER SLIDE LOCATIONS INCLUDED IN SNOQUALMIE...THURSTON COUNTY...THE WEST VALLEY HIGHWAY IN AUBURN...MARINE VIEW DRIVE IN TACOMA...ON VASHON ISLAND...MUKILTEO...CONCRETE...SEDRO WOOLLEY...U.S.101 NEAR HOODSPORT AND IN DES MOINES. TOTAL DAMAGE WAS ESTIMATED AROUND \$200000.

MARCH 9-10 – A PERIOD OF HEAVY RAINFALL AMOUNTS IN PARTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON PRODUCED MODERATE FLOODING ON THE SNOQUALMIE NEAR CARNATION AND MINOR FLOODING ON THE COWLITZ AT RANDLE...GREEN AT AUBURN...PUYALLUP NEAR ORTING...SKOKOMISH...SKYKOMISH...SNOHOMISH... STILLAGUAMISH AND TOLT RIVERS.

MARCH 22 – SR-530 NEAR OSO – A MASSIVE LANDSLIDE WITH A DEPOSIT DEPTH OF 15 TO 75 FEET SWEEPED ACROSS THE NORTH FORK STILLAGUAMISH RIVER WIPING OUT A NEIGHBORHOOD AND BLOCKING SR-530 FOR OVER A MILE. THE TRAGIC EVENT RESULTED IN 43 FATALITIES...12 INJURIES AFTER DESTROYING 37 HOMES. EVENT DAMAGE WAS ESTIMATED AROUND \$60 MILLION.

NOVEMBER 25-30 – PARTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON – HEAVY RAINFALL PRODUCED MODERATE FLOODING ALONG THE CARBON...NISQUALLY AT

NATIONAL...SKAGIT...PUYALLUP NEAR ORTING...SKYKOMISH AND SNOHOMISH RIVERS AND MINOR FLOODING ON THE COWLITZ AT RANDLE...NOOKSACK AT CEDARVILLE...SKOKOMISH...STILLAGUAMISH...SNOQUALMIE AND TOLT RIVERS.

MARINE INCIDENTS INCLUDING COASTAL FLOODING/HIGH SURF AND RIP CURRENTS

JULY 27 – CENTRAL COAST – A GROUP OF EIGHT PEOPLE FROM OUT OF STATE WERE CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT NEAR OCEAN SHORES. ALL EVENTUALLY ESCAPED TO SHORE...BUT ONE PERSON WHO WENT BACK IN THE WATER TO HELP OTHERS WAS SWEEPED OUT TO SEA – ONE FATALITY.

HEAT/WILDFIRE

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A RECORD WARM YEAR...THERE WERE NO EXTENDED HEAT WAVES DURING THE YEAR. WESTERN WASHINGTON HIGH TEMPERATURES CLIMBED INTO THE MID 90S IN SOME LOCATIONS ON THE FIRST OF JULY AND AGAIN IN MID AUGUST. NO SIGNIFICANT WILDFIRES OCCURRED THIS YEAR EITHER. WILDFIRES WERE CONFINED TO AREAS EAST OF THE CASCADE CREST THIS SEASON.

HERE ARE THE HIGH...LOW AND PRECIPITATION RECORDS THAT WERE BROKEN DURING 2014. ENTRIES HAVE THE MONTH/DATE OF THE RECORD...WITH THE RECORD VALUE FOLLOWING. T – MEANS THAT IT WAS TIED.

THERE WERE FAR MORE RECORD DAILY HIGH TEMPERATURES THAN LOWS REFLECTING THE RECORD WARM YEAR. IN ADDITION...DAILY RAINFALL RECORDS ALSO FAR OUTNUMBERED THE LOW TEMPERATURE RECORDS SET.

SEA-TAC AIRPORT...RECORDS DATE BACK TO 1945

HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	PRECIPITATION
05/01 85	NONE	03/08 1.27
07/01 94		03/16 1.09
08/11 96		03/28 0.87
09/06 90		04/17 0.73
10/06 78(T)		05/03 1.31
10/19 72		05/08 0.54
11/27 58(T)		07/23 0.76
12/05 55(T)		08/13 0.85
12/07 58		09/23 0.72
12/09 61		10/22 1.26

12/10 66
12/11 58

OLYMPIA AIRPORT...RECORDS DATE BACK TO 1948

HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	PRECIPITATION
05/01 88	03/22 24(T)	02/17 1.23
07/01 94	11/16 16	03/08 1.77
09/06 89	11/17 18(T)	05/08 0.52
10/19 73	11/18 19	07/23 0.27
11/26 59(T)	12/02 19	08/13 0.57
11/27 58		10/13 0.56
12/09 59(T)		10/22 1.43
12/10 64		
12/11 58(T)		

QUILLAYUTE AIRPORT...RECORDS DATE BACK TO 1966

HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	PRECIPITATION
01/16 60	11/15 21	01/10 2.74
01/17 64	11/17 24	03/05 1.65
01/24 66	11/29 20	03/08 2.70
01/25 60	11/30 19	04/17 1.71
01/26 61	12/01 19	05/03 1.10
03/24 67	12/02 25	05/08 0.92(T)
04/30 84		06/19 0.79
05/01 83		10/13 1.92
05/14 83		10/22 2.44
07/01 91(T)		11/03 4.20
09/05 87		12/08 2.30
09/06 89		12/10 3.36
10/03 77(T)		
12/05 57		
12/07 59		
12/09 57		
12/10 58		
12/11 55		

HOQUIAM AIPORT...RECORDS DATE BACK TO 1953

HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	PRECIPITATION
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01/24 58	02/07 21	02/16 1.82
03/24 67(T)		03/02 1.35
04/30 84		04/17 0.77
05/01 80		04/23 1.63
05/14 84		05/03 1.21
07/01 89(T)		05/08 1.16
09/06 87		07/23 0.63
11/26 56		09/23 1.30
11/27 57(T)		10/13 1.18
12/07 56		12/20 1.88
12/08 56		
12/09 59		
12/10 60		
12/21 55(T)		

BELLINGHAM AIRPORT...RECORDS DATE BACK TO 1949

HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	PRECIPITATION
04/07 68(T)	02/06 20(T)	03/02 0.62
05/01 78	02/07 20(T)	03/19 0.53
05/15 80	11/30 18(T)	04/24 1.15
07/01 84	12/01 19(T)	05/04 0.86
07/13 86		07/23 0.72
08/26 84		07/24 0.31
10/19 75		08/13 0.51
11/06 63(T)		09/02 0.53
12/08 62		12/10 0.93
12/09 63		
12/10 67		
12/11 59		
12/18 56(T)		

SEATTLE WFO AT SANDPOINT...RECORDS DATE BACK TO 1986

HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	PRECIPITATION
03/05 61(T)	02/04 27	02/10 0.48
04/29 76(T)	02/05 21	02/11 0.68
05/01 86	02/06 20	02/15 0.74
05/02 69(T)	02/07 23	02/16 1.04
05/13 77	06/21 50(T)	03/05 1.43
05/14 80(T)	11/12 28	03/08 1.13

07/01	88	11/13	30	03/16	1.13
07/06	85	11/14	29	04/17	1.04
07/12	88	11/15	29	05/03	0.95
07/13	87	11/17	28(T)	05/04	0.49
07/15	85	11/18	30(T)	05/08	0.40
07/16	89	11/30	23	07/23	0.89
08/11	95	12/01	26	08/12	0.32
08/18	85	12/02	28	08/13	0.48
08/25	86			08/30	0.26
08/26	89			09/02	0.58
09/06	87			09/23	0.65
09/15	87			09/24	0.76
09/21	83			10/22	1.39
10/04	73			10/31	1.18
10/06	78(T)				
10/13	69(T)				
10/19	73				
11/06	62				
11/25	57				
11/26	59				
11/27	59				
12/06	54(T)				
12/08	58				
12/09	61				
12/10	65				
12/11	57				
12/15	56				
12/21	55				

GRUB/FELTON/MCFARLAND/NEHER/BOWER/BURKE/MCDONNAL/BUEHNER